(d) the steps proposed to be taken to preserve the heritage of this temple?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The architectural members of the temple built of Khondolite, a soft stone, is subject to constant wind action as the temple is located close to the sea. The salt laden sea wind causes surface damage to the stone members. This also causes crystallization of soluble salts leading to weathering and corrosion of the stone members.

Following remedial measures are adopted regularly to control weathering of stone members and to conserve the heritage.

(i) Soluble salts are removed by repeated paper pulp treatment.

(ii) Micro-vegetational and fungicidal growth are being treated chemically.

(iii) The weathering effects are minimized through stone consolidation.

(iv) Water tightening and underpinning of the structure are carried out using traditional mortar.

(v) Missing stone members of the adhishtana were restored using the original stone members found scattered in the temple complex or with new stones, if necessary.

Seepage in Mahabodhi Temple

5. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether water seepage damaged even the flagship Mahabodhi Temple;

(b) if so, whether condition of Mahabodhi Temple and its complex needs superficial repairs;

(c) whether maintenance of this temple has been neglected by ASI/ Nagar Panchayat/Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee/HUDCO;

(d) whether a plan was prepared by HUDCO to revamp the temple;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to maintain the temple properly?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Mahabodhi temple at Bodhgaya is not a centrally protected monument. It is managed by the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee constituted under Bodhgaya Temple Act 1949. In 2000 the temple management committee approached ASI to take up conservation measures and an estimate was approved for Rs. 34,83,300/= against which Rs. 20.00 lakh was deposited by the committee with Archaeological Survey of India. Some items of works indicated in the approved estimate have been executed and more conservation measures are envisaged according to the revised estimate for Rs. 51,76,000/- in July, 2005.

(d) and (e) No plan has been prepared by HUDCO to revamp the temple. As directed by the Ministry of Tourism, HUDCO has prepared a "Site Management Plan".

(f) Day to day maintenance of the temple is taken care of by the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee, which is constituted by the Government of Bihar.

Heritages of the World

†6. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some places of historical and cultural importance have been included in the list of hundred world heritages, of the world which are on the verge of ruin for 2006 by World Monument Fund;

(b) whether Government are taking any initiatives in cooperation with the World Monument Fund for maintenance, protection and management for these heritages;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.